



ILLINOIS STUDENT GOVERNMENT

250 Illini Union, MC-384
1401 W. Green St.
Urbana, IL 61801

10/03/2019

Dear Illinois Community,

The continued epidemic and concealment of sexual violence created by faculty and staff at the University of Illinois is deeply disturbing and highly alarming. As a student government, we acknowledge that consent to sexual activity cannot be legitimate when a power dynamic is present. The stories that were uncovered by the recent NPR and ProPublica investigation detail the abusive power and disrespect that was perpetrated by various faculty of the University of Illinois. The actions of these individuals have fostered an unsafe campus environment and have violated the values of the Illinois community. Therefore, we refuse to acknowledge their names in this statement.

On behalf of the student body, the Illinois Student Government believes in and stands firmly in solidarity with all survivors, including those involved in the cases that were published in the NPR and ProPublica article. We believe the University -- including administrators and Deans of various colleges on campus -- has not provided a sufficient amount of transparency to the campus community after these events and even after the publication of the NPR and ProPublica articles. This issue needs to be addressed promptly. We demand at the very least an explanatory statement to the student body.

We appreciate the University ending the use of confidentiality agreements and the introduction of other measures to combat this epidemic. We maintain that more actions need to be taken by the University in order to prevent future incidents of sexual and gender-based violence occurring repeatedly. It is the University's duty to ensure the safety of all students on campus. The University of Illinois Student Government's Sexual Assault Prevention Department was established and has been tasked with examining sexual misconduct and tenure policies as well as consulting with pre-existing campus and community entities that specialize in sexual assault prevention on college campuses.

We understand that a public report to review sexual misconduct policies of the University led by the Office of the Provost is being curated. This report must be thoroughly evaluated and reviewed with direct student input. The ISG is eager to be involved in the review of this report. Furthermore, the University must implement strict change to support survivors and members of the Illinois community. As always, we expect that the University keep students involved in every step of the process and be as forthcoming as possible. We as authors of this statement are ready to work together with the administration to create a positive change on campus.

Signed,

Connor Josellis — Student Body President

Jack Langen — Student Body Vice President

Sudarshana Rao — Director of Sexual Assault Prevention Department

Alec Navickis — Assistant Director of Sexual Assault Prevention Department

Deniz Namik — Chair of Committee on Diversity and Inclusion

Susan Zhou — Speaker Pro Tempore

Alissa Xiao — Speaker of the Senate

Marissa Finley — Director of the Senate

Ali Mirza — Chief of Staff